Incentives to Officers in Defence Forces

466. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale shortage of commissioned officers in the armed forces, especially in Air Force and Navy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that talented youth with higher IQ are not opting for armed forces as their career due to lack of attractive pay scales and other facilities compared to those available to other Central Services;

(c) if so, whether this state of affairs is not going to affect our defence preparedness adversely; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to make the Defence Services more attractive in terms of better pay scales and other incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The shortage is 12972 in Army, 690 in Navy and 1042 in Air Force.

(b) It is correct only to the extent that for those looking for jobs, there are various other options available today, some of them with much better pay and service conditions, more so in the business world.

(c) and (d) The shortage will not be allowed to affect our defence preparedness. To step up intake of officers in the Services, improvement in pay and service conditions of the Service officers, a vigorous drive for recruitment, projection of positive aspects of Defence Service as a career, enhanced recruitment of Permanent Commissioned and Short Service Commissioned officers, introduction of University Enter Scheme, induction of women as officers, re-employment of retired officers are various measures being taken by the Government.

Improper maintenance of Accommodation by MES in Delhi Cantonment

467. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that numerous complaints of improper maintenance of accommodation of new APS area of Delhi Cantonment by MES authorities have been made and are pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 1995 till date;

(c) the action taken on each of these complaints; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials of MES?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) No complaints on improper maintenance of accommodation of New APS Area of Delhi Cantonment by MES authorities have been received. However, requests for maintenance pertaining to Building and Road, Sewage, Electrical and Mechanical works have been received. Attending to such request is an on-going process and all efforts have been made to attend to these requests in a reasonable time frame.

Deployment of Weapon Control System

468. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the composite Sonar and Tactical Weapon Control System developed at a cost of Rs. 20.00 crores to be deployed on a submarine, is lying idle for the last five years as neither the Naval authorities nor the Ministry of Defence officials have been able to decide where to deploy the said system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the Cabinet's approval, the said system was to be deployed in the year 1993; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not implementing the Cabinet's approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The system was required to be developed and installed on board a submarine and its User trials were to be completed by November 1993. However, due to foreign exchange crunch and restrictions imposed in 1991 on import of some critical components, the date of completion of the above tasks has been extended by the Government to December 1997.

रक्षा अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला को चंडीगढ़ स्थानान्तरित किया जाना

469. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन की टर्मिनल प्रक्षेपास्त्र अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला हिमाचल प्रदेश में कुल्लू जिले के मनाली में स्थित थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसे चंड़ीगढ़ में स्थानान्तरित करने के क्या कारण हैं और इसे कब स्थानान्तरित किया गया;

(ग) चंड़ीगढ़ और रामगढ़ जिला पंचकुला-हरियाणा में इस प्रयोगशाला के भवनों पर कितना धन व्यय किया जा रहा है और कितने कर्मचारी/अधिकारी इसमें कार्यरत हैं;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि स्नो एंड ऐवलांश स्टडी इस्टेब्लिशमेंट को सितम्बर, 1996 के दौरान कुल्लू जिले में बाढ़ के कारण काफी क्षति का सामना करना पड़ा था; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन० वी० एन० सोमू): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) भाग (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) चंडीगढ़ और पंचकुला, हरियाणा स्थित टर्मिनल बैलिस्टिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला के निरंतर चलने वाले सिविल निर्माण कार्यों की लागत 4.4 करोड़ रुपये है। इस प्रयोगशाला में 480 कर्मचारी तथा 148 अधिकारी कार्यरत हैं।

(घ) स्नो एंड ऐवलांश अध्ययन स्थापना को सितंबर, 1995 में बाढ़ के कारण भारी क्षति उठानी पड़ी थी।

(ङ) व्यास नदी के बहाव का रूख बदल जाने के कारण 04 सितंबर, 1995 को स्नो एंड ऐवलांश अध्ययन स्थापना बाढ़ग्रस्त हो गई थी।

Pension to Jawans of Garhwal Rifles

470. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1272 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1996 and state:

(a) the number of personnel of Garhwal Rifles who have been paid pension and the pending cases so far;

(b) the number of pending cases of Garhwal Rifles in the office of the DUDA(P), Allahabad in particular; and

(c) the action taken by Government to clear the pending cases and by when the case will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) The 102 cases shown pending in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1272 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4.12.1996, have since been settled. At present 70 cases of service pension received in January-February 1997, and 56 cases of disability pension received in November 1996—February 1997 are under process by the Chief Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), Allahabad.

Pakistan's army action in Kashmir

471. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Dainik Jagran on the 13th January, 1997 under the caption